

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to a polymer composition; and

Group II, claims 9-14, drawn to a process for bleaching a cellulosic fiber material.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-8.**

Traversal is hereby made on the ground that (I) claims 1-8 and (II) claims 9-14 are so interrelated so as to constitute a single inventive concept. There is no undue burden on the Examiner. Thus, the Restriction Requirement is unnecessary and improper.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A polymer composition for peroxide bleaching of a cellulosic fibre material, said composition being in the form of a stable aqueous polymer solution obtained by bringing in an aqueous medium a first polymer (A) comprising a partly or totally acidic homopolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid, or a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, into contact with a second polymer (B) comprising a polylactone of a poly- $\alpha$ -hydroxyacrylic acid in solid form or as a moist powder or as a slurry, said polymer solution having a pH of at most 5.

Claim 9 reads as follows:

9. A process for bleaching a cellulosic fibre material with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium, comprising a step of adding to the cellulosic fibre material a polymer composition in the form of a stable polymer solution obtained by bringing in an aqueous medium a first polymer (A) comprising a partly or totally acidic homopolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid, or a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, into contact with a second polymer (B) comprising a polylactone of a poly-alfa-hydroxyacrylic acid in solid form or as a moist powder or as a slurry, said polymer solution having a pH of at most 5.

Claim 1 recites that the claimed polymer composition is used "for peroxide bleaching of a cellulosic fibre (fiber) material." Claim 9 recites that the claimed process is used "for bleaching a cellulosic fibre (fiber) material with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium." First polymer (A) and second polymer (B) are the same in claims 1 and 9. Thus, it is clear that claims 1 and 9 read on the same or substantially the same inventive concept. Simply stated, the claimed composition and process are directed to aqueous polymer mixture compositions to be used in peroxide bleaching of cellulosic fiber materials.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart, Registration No 21,066 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for


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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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